



**STATE OF VERMONT
Department of Education
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Vermont Statewide Assessment Results Released

MONTPELIER – Statewide assessment results for Fall 2007 were released by the Vermont Department of Education today. The results are from the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) exams, given to Vermont public school students in grades three through eight. Students were tested in reading and mathematics in all six grades, and in writing at grades five and eight.

Seventy percent of Vermont students tested were proficient or higher in reading. In mathematics, 63 percent of Vermont students were proficient or higher. In writing, 48 percent of students tested were proficient or higher.

As seen in previous years statewide and nationally, an achievement gap persists between boys and girls, and between students from low-income families and their peers. In reading, girls outperform boys 75 percent to 65 percent. In writing, that gap widens to 58 percent versus 37 percent. In mathematics, the gap essentially disappears, with 63 percent of male students and 62 percent of female students demonstrating proficiency.

Students eligible for free and/or reduced lunch are not achieving at the same level as their peers. In reading, only 53 percent of those students were proficient or higher, compared to 77 percent of their peers. In mathematics, 45 percent of those students were proficient or higher, compared to 71 percent of their peers. In writing, 30 percent of those students were proficient or higher, compared to 55 percent of their peers.

The NECAP exams were created in collaboration with Rhode Island and New Hampshire. These exams are designed to specifically assess how well Vermont students have learned the skills and content contained in *Vermont's Framework of Standards and Learning Opportunities* and Grade Expectations. This is the third year of results on the NECAP exams for grades three through eight. High school students in grade 11 took the NECAP high school assessment for the first time in Fall 2007. As required under the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLBA), a Science assessment is planned for May 2008 in grades four, eight and 11.

For school reports, visit

http://www.education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_assessment/data.html#NECAP.